

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
IO-13 /070 W
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R 191515Z JAN 77K
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4495
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0421

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MOSHE DAYAN

1. I HAD AN HOUR-LONG TALK WITH MOSHE DAYAN ON JANUARY 18 AT HIS HOME IN TEL AVIV. SINCE HE IS LEAVING FOR THE U.S. ON JANUARY 20 AND PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON SOME TIME DURING HIS VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH (TEL AVIV 0404), THE FOLLOWING

SUMMARY OF HIS VIEWS MIGHT BE USEFUL. A MEMCON FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

2. DAYAN CANNOT ACCEPT CHANGES IN THE LABOR PARTY'S PLATFORM WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, AND HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IF THEY ARE ADOPTED. HE SAID THAT THESE CALLED FOR AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWALS FROM THE WEST BANK (A) WITHOUT REQUIRING A NEW ELECTION AND (B) EVEN WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. HE THOUGHT THAT GOLDA MEIR SUPPORTED HIS OBJECTION TO BOTH THESE POINTS, BUT HE IS NOT SURE OF RABIN'S POSITION ON POINT (A).

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3. DAYAN HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND WHETHER HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. HIS PRESENT INCLINATION IS TO DECLINE THE OFFER OF HEADING A NEW MINISTRY FOR ARAB AFFAIRS WHICH PERES HAD VAGUELY EXTENDED TO HIM.

4. DAYAN COULD NOT VENTURE A GUESS AS TO WHO WOULD WIN IN

THE RABIN/PERES CONTEST BUT FELT THAT PERES WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK OUT MORE CLEARLY ON THE ISSUES. HE WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECT OF MAPAM'S LEAVING THE ALIGNMENT. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE LABOR PARTY WOULD FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AND THAT MAPAM WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO THE COALITION. HE FELT THAT THE CRITICAL NUMBER FOR LABOR WAS 31 KNESSET SEATS AND THAT A POSSIBLE COALITION AFTER THE ELECTION WOULD INCLUDE THE LIKUD AND THE NRP WITH LABOR. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE POSSIBILITY OF LIKUD JOINING A LABOR-LED COALITION, DAYAN RECALLED THAT BEGIN AS A MEMBER OF THE 1967 GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY HAD BEEN WILLING TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWALS ON ALL FRONTS RIGHT AFTER THE SIX DAY WAR. DAYAN THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN.

5. DAYAN ESTIMATES THAT YIGAL YADIN WOULD RECEIVE A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF KNESSET SEATS BUT WAS CERTAIN THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN A LIKUD-LED COALITION BECAUSE YADIN'S PARTY IS MUCH TOO MODERATE ON FOREIGN POLICY TO LINE UP WITH THE LIKUD. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SHARON'S PROSPECTS AND ANTICIPATES THAT HE WOULD YET RETURN (AROUND MARCH) TO THE LIKUD OR EVEN JOIN YADIN OR THE ALIGNMENT.

6. DAYAN WAS WILLING TO SEE ISRAEL ATTEND A GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT GENEVA WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ARAB PRICE FOR A SETTLEMENT WAS TOO HEAVY FOR ISRAEL TO PAY. HE BELIEVED THAT THE ARABS WOULD DEMAND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AS WELL AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. HE, THEREFORE, BELIEVED THAT INTERIM AGREEMENTS WOULD BE THE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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KIND PRACTICAL AT THIS TIME. HE INDICATED THAT SADAT COULD ACCEPT ONE MORE ISRAELI PARTIAL PULLBACK IN THE SINAI BUT THAT HE PROBABLY COULD NOT GET OUT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER CONFRONTATION STATES BY ACCEPTING AN ISRAELI PULLBACK FROM THE ENTIRE SINAI UNLESS THE DEMANDS OF THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE ALSO MET.

7. FINALLY, DAYAN THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT REALLY WANT TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, NOR TELL THE ISRAELIS WHAT TO DO; ONCE THE U.S. UNDERTAKES EITHER OF THESE COURSES IT WOULD BE LIABLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES. HE DREW A PARALLEL TO THE U.S. INTEREST IN ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR RESEARCH, SAYING THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT REALLY WANT "TO FIND OUT IF WE ARE BUILDING ATOMIC BOMBS."

8. COMMENT: DAYAN OBVIOUSLY FEELS THAT HE STILL HAS A ROLE TO PLAY. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION RE THE POSSIBILITY OF LABOR TURNING TO HIM TO BE PRIME MINISTER HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, ADDING THAT THIS COULD ONLY HAPPEN IF ISRAEL GOT INTO A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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